

LESSON 25: ROMANS 12:1-21

New Life in Christ (cont'd)

1. What are the “mercies of God” (12:1)? How does the “living sacrifice” and “spiritual worship” of the believer in Jesus Christ differ from the sacrifices of the Old Testament? (See Hebrews 13:15-16 and 1 Peter 2:5.) Why does Paul call our offering of ourselves as a “spiritual” act of worship? To live a life acceptable to God, what must be the core, motivating force?
2. What two possible outlooks on life are contrasted in 12:2? Compare with Romans 8:5-7. As a Christian, what is your responsibility for your body and mind? How can your mind be renewed? What must God do? What must you do?
3. What must happen in order to discern and agree with God’s will (v. 2)? What are the ways in which to “test” what God’s will is?
4. What practical suggestion does Paul give concerning the use of your mind (v. 3)? Why is self-centeredness to have no place in the Christian life? It is said that “there is no pride more dangerous and objectionable than spiritual pride.” How do you prevent it in yourself?
5. What do “grace” and “faith” in verses 3 and 6 have to do with how you discern and act on God’s will for your life?
6. Why does the discussion of the gifts of the Spirit tend to cause division within a fellowship of believers? The gift list in verses 6-8 is not complete. The purpose is to teach certain principles about how to use gifts. What principles can you identify? How do you put them into practice in your life? Why is the possession of a spiritual gift or gifts not enough for the Christian? What gifts are given to build up the believer who possesses them, and which are given for the good of others? What is your attitude to be like toward God, toward yourself, and toward other believers?

7. What struggles in the Christian life are suggested by the five commands in verses 9 and 10? Why are these commands foundational to consecrated Christian living? What does it mean to “honor” a person (verse 10)?

8. It is said that the greatest missionary field is the marketplace, to which, in some measure, all of Christians are called. In this particular area, how do you implement verses 10-12 (especially v. 11)?

9. What reason is there for joy and patience in the midst of tribulation? See Romans 5:3-5.

10. Describe a church which practices the principles found in verse 9-13. What prevents this type of fellowship from controlling your church?

11. Why is it wrong and harmful to respond to evil with more evil (vv. 14, 17, 19-21)? How does doing good overcome evil? How can you be sure that your goodness, kindness, and forgiveness in response to hurt or evil is genuine?

12. How does verse 21 summarize the two-fold task of the Christian in the world? Which of these tasks is more important for the Christian and the church?